

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Jan Dunas	David Elder	Debra Kinsey	Andrea Medley
Gary Seelbach	Julie Stremlau	Brooke Whitted	

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Bob Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Beatriz Diaz-Pollack
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MEMBERS ABSENT

Alan Dietrich	Edgar Hernandez	Merlin Lehman	Kathy Ryg
Dee Ann Ryan	Evon Robinzine	Lanée Walls	

STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Lynn Lowder	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2009 MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting.

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Bob Bloom seconded that the minutes of October 8, 2009 Authority meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried with Debra Kinsey abstaining because she was not present at the October Authority meeting.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **Illinois Children's' Mental Health Partnership** Job posting: *Mental Health/Juvenile Justice/ Family Engagement Coordinator*. Director Schornagel urged members to pass along the position posting to individuals who they know that fit the description and urge them to contact Collette Lueck.
- **An Update Position statement from The Bazelon Center on Mental Health Law**. Director Schornagel noted that the statement concludes that residential treatment centers do not adequately meet the mental health needs of children, favoring instead, redirection of funds spent on residential treatment to community-based systems of care, including Wraparound planning and treatment. He added that, in his opinion, the position outlined in the position statement is rather extreme and seems like an over-reaction based on the data cited. He also noted that the opinion correctly asserts that many children currently in residential treatment settings could be successfully treated in their home communities if there were sufficient resources available at the community level.
- **1st Quarter Staff Activity Report** Director Schornagel informed the Authority that the format of this document has been rearranged, particularly the Narrative section outlining staff Participation in Activities with Agencies, Organizations and Groups: where the activities of the Network Development Coordinator's have been listed separately from the activities of other staff. This was done so the members could clearly review the scope and impact of Theresa William's activities. In response to a question by Debra Kinsey, Director Schornagel clarified that Ms. William's position is a full time systems change position and that Regional Coordinators have full time casework responsibilities: participating in activities with outside agencies, organizations and groups as a secondary responsibility, as time permits. Ms. Kinsey suggested that the Staff Activity Report be modified to reflect that difference.
- **FY 10 1st Quarter Case Distribution Graph** Robert Bloom suggested that when a graph like this is presented that data from previous years also be presented for comparison

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Beatriz Diaz-Pollack reported that the ISBE board is holding a series of town meetings throughout the state in preparation for the formulation of a budget for Fiscal Year 2011. The board and staff are very interested in the public's input regarding how resources should be allocated in what will certainly be another difficult budget year. She also commented on activities related to the Race To the Top grant application from the US Department of Education which will result in grants being awarded to states after a competitive application process. Brooke Whitted asked for an update about legislation that would amend Section 14-7.02 of the school code and change the way school districts are reimbursed for private educational placement. Mrs. Diaz-Pollack responded that there is no current legislative

proposal that she is aware of, however, a report is anticipated as a result of the HJR 24 Taskforce on Special Education Funding and that report may contain recommendations for changes to special education funding statutes, including Section 14-7.02 .

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. CRSA FY 11 Spending Plan

David Elder informed the Authority that the Executive Committee discussed a final FY 11 CRSA spending request of \$618,000.00 and recommended that the Authority adopt the spending plan.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Debra Kinsey seconded that the Authority adopt the CRSA FY 11 spending plan of \$618,000.00. The motion carried with Beatriz Diaz-Pollack abstaining because she was out of the room during the discussion.*

B. CRSA Staff Compensation Policy Amendments

David Elder reported that there were no suggested edits to the proposed amendments to CRSA Staff Compensation Policy that was presented for review and consideration at the October Authority meeting on First Reading.

Debra Kinsey proposed that an unnecessary phrase be removed from Clause # 9 and that the Effective Date of the policy in Section E. be changed to today's date. David Elder, as chair of the Policy Committee accepted those proposed changes as friendly amendments.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that the Authority adopt proposed amendments to the CRSA Staff Compensation Policy incorporating friendly amendments for today's meeting. The motion carried unanimously*

Director Schornagel thanked the Authority for adopting the proposed amendments noting that it took nearly two years of review and debate to accomplish.

C. Other

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Vice-Chairperson Seelbach reported that most of the items discussed by the CRSA Executive Committee in December are covered in other parts of the agenda with the exception of two topics.

The Authority reviewed a one page Corporate Charter proposal presented by Brooke Whitted that has been reviewed by both the Ad Hoc Special Funds Committee and by the Executive Committee. The proposal suggests the creation of a 501(c)(3) private, not-for profit corporation "Friends of CRSA" composed of a small unpaid board and no staff committed to soliciting donations, as well as, holding and distributing funds to assist children and families served by the CRSA to obtain urgently needed and necessary goods and services that are otherwise unavailable to them through the existing service system. Purchase of goods and services would be under the exclusive authorization of the CRSA. The Charter proposal specifically prohibits the use of donated funds for CRSA operations of any kind. Mr. Whitted offered to help set up the Corporation and to actively seek donations for such an organization, if there was interest by the CRSA staff and board. Director Schornagel responded that CRSA staff frequently encounters case situations in which relatively small amounts of money are needed for children and families on the CRSA caseload to purchase a range of goods and services that are otherwise not available. Both Committees suggested that Director Schornagel write a letter of interest to advance further exploration and discussion of the concept and to begin to outline the operations of such corporation.

David Elder reported on behalf of the Executive Committee that after recalculating CRSA's FY 10 spending plan, that sufficient funding is available to partially implement the CRSA Staff Compensation Policy during FY 2010. He added that while there is insufficient funding in the budget to award merit increases to staff in accordance with the CRSA staff Compensation Policy, there is enough funding available to implement the scheduled cost of living adjustment. He also commented that based on social security 0% COLA projections for FY 10 that no COLA will be granted to CRSA staff during FY 2011. Debra Kinsey had questions about how CRSA's Staff Compensation framework differs from other state agencies and union agreements. David Elder responded that CRSA is too small to qualify as a union bargaining unit, and is separate from the ISBE, therefore obliged to set its own compensation policies. He referred to the CRSA Staff Compensation Policy adopted earlier in the agenda. Several members had concerns about sustainability of the increases if CRSA were not to receive its FY 2011 appropriation request. Mr. Elder responded that the Executive Committee discussed sustainability concerns prior to making the recommendation to grant the FY 2010 COLA and concluded at the time that staff salaries might need to be reduced in the future if a future annual appropriation was insufficient to sustain the salary increases. Bob Bloom commented that salary reductions are painful for staff and carry the possibility of lowering staff morale. Director Schornagel commented that he felt that the CRSA staff would accept a future salary reduction as an economic reality if such a cut became necessary.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that that the Authority grant CRSA staff a Cost of Living Increase retroactive to July 1, 2009 in conformance with the CRSA Staff Compensation Policy. The motion carried with Debra Kinsey abstaining on the grounds of sustainability.*

B. Multiple Agency Resource Pool Committee

David Elder, Chair of the CRSA MARP Committee, updated the Authority that the MARP Committee did not meet in November. He further reported that both the MARP Committee and the Executive Committee are recommending that the Ad Hoc Multiple Agency Resource Pool Committee be abolished and that its membership be folded into an expanded Ad Hoc Special Funds Committee, with Joint Chairmanship shared by he and Kathy Briseno. He noted that, with two exceptions, the membership of both committees are identical and the MARP is really a special fund.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that the Authority abolish the Ad Hoc Multiple Agency Resource Pool Committee and fold its membership into an expanded Ad Hoc Special Funds Committee, with Joint Chairmanship shared by David Elder and Kathy Briseno. The motion carried unanimously*

C. Staff Evaluation Committee

David Elder reported on behalf of the Staff Evaluation Committee that the Committee has completed its Performance Appraisal of the Executive Director and that members of the Committee will meet with the Executive Director in coming weeks to discuss the Appraisal. He further recommended, on behalf of the Committee, that the Staff Evaluation Committee process be placed on the CRSA Policy Committee agenda as a priority item in January.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Debra Kinsey seconded that the Staff Evaluation Committee process be placed on the CRSA Policy Committee agenda for discussion and action as a priority item in January 2010. The motion carried unanimously*

D. Nominating Committee

Director Schornagel reported to the Authority on behalf of Chairperson Alan Dietrich, that Chairperson Dietrich will be contact Authority members in the coming weeks to serve as members of the FY 2011 Nominating Committee

VIII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Debra Kinsey moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*